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BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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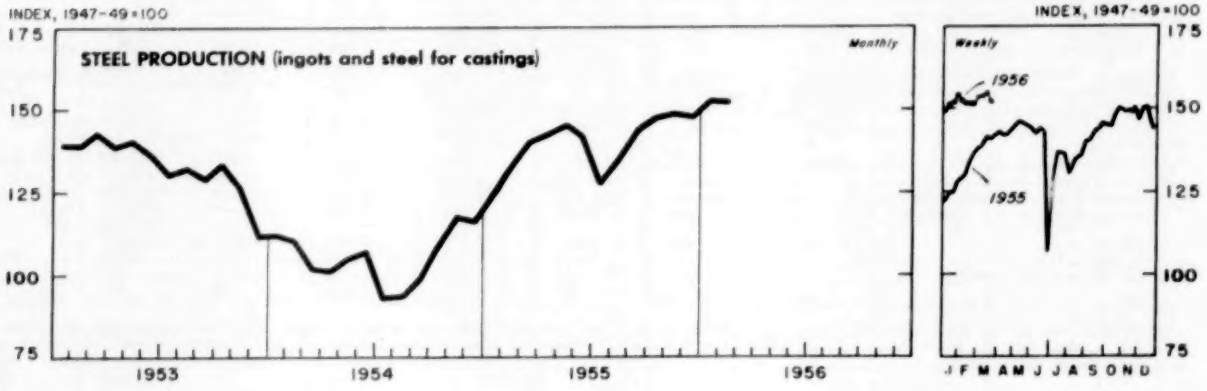
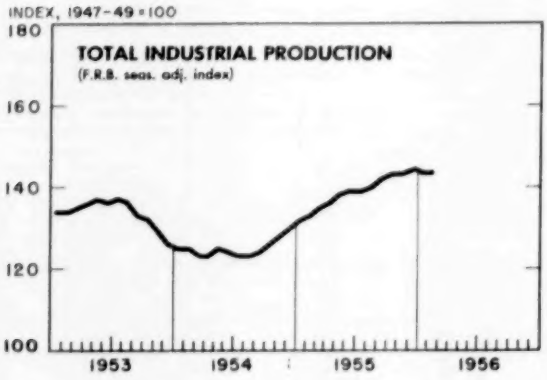
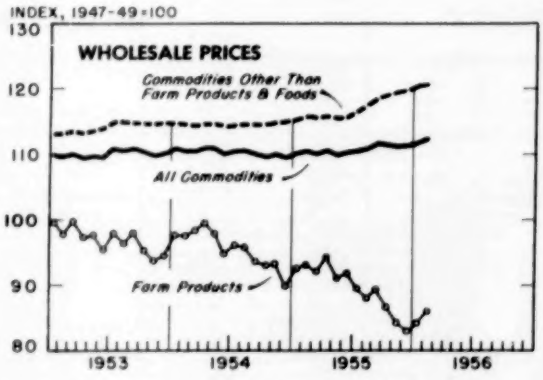
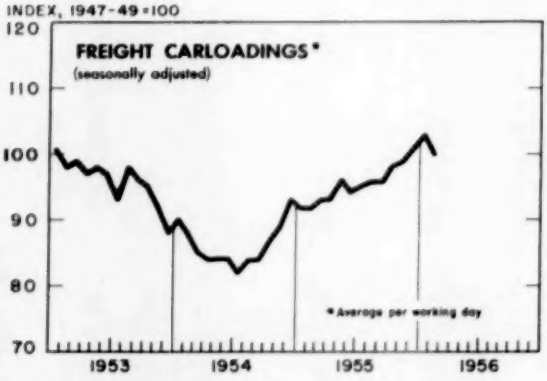
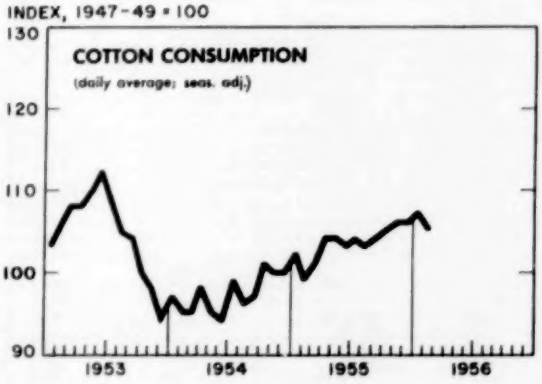
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Feb. 25	Mar. 3	Mar. 10	Mar. 17
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.0	.....	.....	112.4	112.5
Farm products.....do....	.....	*92.1	.....	.....	85.7	86.9
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*101.6	.....	.....	98.9	99.0
All other.....do....	.....	*115.6	.....	.....	120.7	120.6
22 commodities 2/.....do....	88.6	88.9	88.5	89.0	89.3	89.4
Department store sales.....do....	102	108	97	104	109	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,934	1,881	1,683	1,665	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,721	1,655	1,536	1,520	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	29,832	29,819	30,196	30,188	30,253	30,266
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	24,873	24,809	25,360	25,089	25,118	23,308
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,596	18,779	18,749	18,596	18,670	18,691
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	578	630	535	437	487	477
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,769	57,861	56,106	56,230	56,417	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,540	21,528	21,452	21,493	21,510	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,167	84,843	84,072	84,190	84,338	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	34,177	34,374	28,395	28,272	28,157	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	22,265	22,584	26,241	26,316	26,454	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,373	7,402	8,194	8,224	8,254	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	257	226	230	293	268	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.21	3.21	3.27	3.27	3.27	3.29
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	275.2	273.3	325.7	331.5	337.3	347.1
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	307.8	306.1	374.5	382.3	389.2	401.6
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,401	1,343	1,662	1,647	1,588	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,726	9,814	11,277	11,199	11,133	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	193,475	201,503	148,175	157,532	157,005	157,028
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,845	6,858	7,184	7,156	7,162	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,241	2,273	2,433	2,459	2,462	2,477
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#92.9	#94.2	98.8	99.9	100.0	100.6
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	662	656	687	711	698	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	365	363	364	378	373	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week ended March 24, 1956: Production, 2,477 thous. short tons; operating rate, 99.4 percent. * Monthly index for March 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial production (FRB):						
Unadjusted, combined index.....1947-49=100..	132	135	145	r142	143	p144
Manufactures.....do....	133	136	148	143	144	p146
Durable manufactures.....do....	147	151	163	r161	160	p162
Primary metals.....do....	129	136	149	147	153	p154
Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do....	159	162	174	r173	172	p172
Fabricated metal products.....do....	124	126	139	r137	133	p134
Machinery.....do....	148	152	164	r164	167	p168
Transportation equipment.....do....	200	205	216	r214	206	p206
Instruments and related products.....do....	140	142	159	r161	160	p162
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	109	113	128	128	123	p124
Lumber and products.....do....	117	125	124	r113	116	p121
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	132	134	157	r153	150	p151
Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....	129	134	152	149	142	p144
Nondurable manufactures.....do....	120	122	132	r125	128	p130
Food and beverage manufactures.....do....	98	97	114	105	102	.....
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	*103	**83	107	88	.....	.....
Textile-mill products.....do....	104	108	111	105	111	.....
Apparel and allied products.....do....	113	116	117	107	117	.....
Leather and products.....do....	105	112	99	r102	110	.....
Paper and allied products.....do....	140	148	159	147	157	.....
Printing and publishing.....do....	119	122	135	r130	125	p127
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	158	162	178	177	178	.....
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	132	134	140	r141	143	p142
Rubber products.....do....	145	144	150	140	151	.....
Minerals.....do....	117	119	127	r127	127	p127
Coal.....do....	77	79	87	91	90	p88
Crude oil and natural gas.....do....	142	144	147	r151	151	p152
Adjusted, combined index.....do....	132	133	143	144	143	p144
Manufactures.....do....	133	134	145	r146	145	p144
Durable manufactures.....do....	145	147	161	r161	160	p159
Primary metals.....do....	127	131	149	r150	150	p149
Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do....	157	158	172	r172	170	p169
Fabricated metal products.....do....	125	126	139	r138	135	p134
Machinery.....do....	145	146	161	r163	164	p163

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. * November 1954 data. ** December 1954 data.

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued						
Industrial production (FRB), adjusted index - Continued						
Manufactures - Continued						
Durable manufactures - Continued						
Metal fabricating (including ordnance) - Continued						
Transportation equipment, 1947-49=100	197	199	213	r212	205	p202
Instruments and related products, do.	140	142	158	r159	160	p162
Furniture and fixtures, do.	109	109	123	123	123	p120
Lumber and products, do.	129	127	124	r126	127	p124
Stone, clay, and glass products, do.	136	138	156	155	154	p156
Miscellaneous manufactures, do.	132	133	145	146	145	p143
Nondurable manufactures, do.	121	121	129	130	129	p129
Food and beverage manufactures, do.	107	106	112	r113	111	.....
Tobacco manufactures, do.	*100	**101	104	107	.....	.....
Textile-mill products, do.	102	103	110	r109	108	.....
Apparel and allied products, do.	110	106	117	116	113	.....
Leather and products, do.	105	r105	101	108	109	.....
Paper and allied products, do.	142	143	157	160	159	.....
Printing and publishing, do.	123	123	130	r128	129	p128
Chemicals and allied products, do.	155	158	173	175	175	.....
Petroleum and coal products, do.	131	134	139	r141	142	p142
Rubber products, do.	143	138	147	146	149	.....
Minerals, do.	120	123	125	r129	130	p131
Coal, do.	74	79	80	87	86	p88
Crude oil and natural gas, do.	142	144	147	r151	151	p152
Consumer durables output (FRB):						
Unadjusted index, total, do.	142	151	159	r148	143	p144
Major consumer durables, do.	163	174	177	r164	158	p157
Autos, do.	195	210	212	193	173	p164
Major household goods, do.	137	146	150	r141	147	p154
Furniture and floor coverings, do.	108	111	124	125	121	.....
Appliances and heaters, do.	124	138	131	129	.....	.....
Radio and television sets, do.	260	272	279	224	239	.....
Other consumer durables, do.	95	97	117	111	111	p112
Adjusted index, total, do.	139	r140	151	r148	142	p137
Major consumer durables, do.	156	159	167	r163	154	p147
Autos, do.	186	r189	196	187	171	p158
Major household goods, do.	133	134	143	r143	141	p140
Furniture and floor coverings, do.	107	107	121	121	120	.....
Appliances and heaters, do.	126	130	134	141	.....	.....
Radio and television sets, do.	225	226	235	216	207	.....
Other consumer durables, do.	98	99	114	114	114	p114
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale price index, all commodities, 1947-49=100	110.1	110.4	111.2	111.3	r111.9	112.3
Farm products, do.	92.5	93.1	84.1	82.9	84.1	86.0
Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried, do.	105.2	103.8	102.6	95.6	105.0	98.2
Grains, do.	93.5	93.1	79.8	82.7	81.5	82.9
Livestock and live poultry, do.	79.4	80.7	62.2	59.3	63.0	67.7
Foods, processed, do.	103.8	103.2	98.8	98.2	98.3	99.0
Cereal and bakery products, do.	116.9	116.3	115.1	115.2	115.1	115.4
Dairy products and ice cream, do.	107.0	107.2	105.9	107.2	106.1	106.1
Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen, do.	104.6	104.4	107.7	107.9	108.1	108.8
Meats, poultry, and fish, do.	87.6	86.9	77.8	75.3	75.7	76.1
Commodities other than farm products and foods, do.	115.2	115.7	119.4	119.8	r120.4	120.5
Chemicals and allied products, do.	107.1	107.1	106.6	106.6	106.3	106.4
Chemicals, industrial, do.	117.3	117.4	119.3	119.4	120.0	119.9
Fuel, power, and lighting materials, do.	108.5	108.7	108.6	109.3	r111.0	111.1
Petroleum and products, do.	111.7	111.7	115.0	115.6	117.2	117.5
Furniture, other household durables, do.	115.5	115.4	117.2	117.3	r118.0	118.0
Appliances, household, do.	108.7	108.5	106.3	105.8	r105.6	105.6
Hides, skins, and leather products, do.	91.9	92.3	96.4	96.7	96.7	97.1
Lumber and wood products, do.	120.3	121.2	125.0	125.1	r126.3	126.7
Lumber, do.	120.0	121.4	126.4	126.4	127.6	128.2
Machinery and motive products, do.	125.8	126.1	132.5	133.0	r133.3	133.5
Electrical machinery and equipment, do.	126.8	126.7	131.4	132.1	r132.4	132.7
Motor vehicles, do.	121.7	121.5	126.5	126.7	126.7	126.7
Metals and metal products, do.	130.1	131.5	142.9	143.9	r145.1	145.0
Iron and steel, do.	135.8	135.8	146.0	147.2	r149.4	148.8
Nonmetallic minerals, structural, do.	122.0	121.8	125.2	125.4	r127.0	127.2
Pulp, paper, and allied products, do.	116.3	116.6	123.2	123.6	124.8	125.4
Paper, do.	127.5	128.0	131.7	132.6	134.6	135.0
Rubber and products, do.	136.8	140.6	150.6	151.0	r148.4	147.1
Textile products and apparel, do.	95.2	95.2	95.6	95.6	r95.7	96.0
Apparel, do.	98.2	98.2	99.0	99.1	r99.5	99.5
Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages, do.	121.4	121.6	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:						
Unadjusted: Total, privately and publicly owned, thousands	87.6	89.9	r89.2	75.0	74.0	78.0
Privately owned, total, do.	87.3	87.9	r88.4	72.2	73.0	76.8
In metropolitan areas, do.	67.8	64.9	r64.0	52.5	52.7	55.2
Publicly owned, do.	.3	2.0	.8	2.8	1.0	1.2
Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:						
Privately owned, total, do.	1,416.0	1,370.0	r1,192.0	1,187.0	r1,180.0	1,200.0

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. * November 1954 data. ** December 1954 data.

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
FINANCE						
Stocks, cash dividend payments publicly reported:						
Total dividend payments, mil. of dol.	721.1	259.5	294.6	2,418.7	808.7	.....
Finance, do.	142.0	70.8	85.2	265.8	164.5	.....
Manufacturing, do.	233.7	85.5	112.2	1,547.0	269.5	.....
Mining, do.	4.7	2.2	2.0	230.5	9.7	.....
Public utilities:						
Communications, do.	121.8	1.3	1.5	42.1	136.5	.....
Electric and gas, do.	81.1	67.9	73.4	126.4	87.0	.....
Railroad, do.	32.9	10.2	3.4	117.4	40.1	.....
Trade, do.	93.5	17.0	9.7	51.3	91.5	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron and steel scrap:						
Production and receipts, total, thous. of short tons.	6,004	5,874	7,213	r7,096	p7,418	.....
Home scrap produced, do.	3,384	3,294	3,969	r4,034	p4,071	.....
Purchased scrap received (net), do.	2,619	2,580	3,244	r3,062	p3,347	.....
Consumption, total, do.	6,066	5,993	7,214	r7,276	p7,487	.....
Stocks, consumers', end of month, do.	7,284	7,156	7,385	r7,210	p7,165	.....
Steel ingots and steel for castings:						
Production, do.	8,838	8,497	10,247	10,504	r10,828	10,121
Percent of capacity	83	88	99	99	99	99
Copper:						
Production:						
Mine, recoverable copper, short tons.	83,300	83,492	91,053	88,575	95,505	.....
Refinery, primary, do.	117,153	111,015	123,095	135,675	117,631	.....
From domestic ores, do.	88,312	81,021	94,876	99,349	93,252	.....
From foreign ores, do.	28,841	29,994	28,219	36,326	24,379	.....
Secondary, recovered as refined, do.	15,834	15,028	22,071	21,073	17,245	.....
Consumption, refined (by mills, etc.), do.	126,308	119,609	r148,835	r154,852	p150,121	.....
Stocks, refined, total, end of month, do.	121,835	120,643	156,801	r164,192	p139,812	.....
Fabricators', do.	81,807	77,683	112,897	r114,634	p96,555	.....
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton, consumption 1/, bales.	716,045	720,591	741,447	855,447	746,996	760,590
Rayon and acetate (filament yarn and staple):						
Shipments, domestic, producers':						
Filament yarn, mil. of lb.	65.8	67.9	69.9	70.8	78.0	70.5
Staple (incl. tow), do.	35.4	33.0	r35.9	r31.2	35.9	33.7
Stocks, producers', end of month:						
Filament yarn, do.	55.5	50.4	49.5	52.2	49.0	46.1
Staple (incl. tow), do.	28.6	25.8	29.1	34.2	34.2	36.0
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total, number	2,014	2,603	3,845	3,814	4,199	4,883
Equipment manufacturers, total, do.	1,605	2,063	2,749	2,714	2,981	3,154
Domestic, do.	1,605	1,913	2,331	2,696	2,981	3,152
Railroad shops, domestic, do.	409	540	1,096	1,100	1,218	1,729
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total, do.	761	725	399	860	903	464
Domestic, do.	693	672	390	851	884	443
Shipments, total, do.	40	36	38	39	42	53
Domestic, do.	18	21	38	39	42	53

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for December 1955 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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